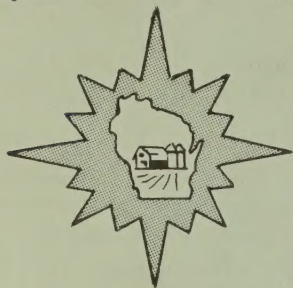


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WISCONSIN Farm Reporter

- Dairy
- Crops
- Livestock

VOL. VIII, NO. 6

PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

April 1976

Cream of the News

Milk prices received by Wisconsin farmers in March were up 35 cents from February and \$1.98 above a year earlier.

Cheese production in the Nation during February was 18 percent higher than a year ago while butter output dropped 5 percent.

Wholesale prices of butter and cheddar cheese increased from February to March but Swiss cheese prices declined.

Cold storage stocks of butter and cheese in the Nation at the end of March remained below the previous year as they have since March 1975.

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during March was above last year as production per cow increased and feeding rates were higher.

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all farm products sold in the month ending at mid-March was up 2 percent from February.

Cash receipts from the sale of Wisconsin livestock in 1975 increased about 13 percent from a year earlier due to record high hog prices and greater marketings of cattle and calves.

Production of beef in Wisconsin during February was 13 percent more than a year ago but output of pork was down 20 percent.

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of March were 7 percent under last year.

Cattle and calves on feed in the 23 major feeding states on April 1 were up 28 percent from the low level of a year earlier.

Wool production and prices in Wisconsin and the Nation again declined sharply during 1975.

The April 1 survey of planting intentions for the 1976 season indicated farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation plan to increase corn acreage.

The 1976 crop season in Wisconsin and the Corn Belt had an early start as temperatures averaged above normal and precipitation was below normal.

MILK PRICE RECOVERS IN MARCH

Prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all milk delivered to plants and dealers in March are expected to average \$9.45 a hundredweight, up 35 cents from the previous month and \$1.98 above a year earlier. A strong demand for butter and cheese contributed to the increase in milk prices.

Milk prices for February averaged \$9.10 a hundredweight, a decline of 50 cents from January but \$1.60 higher than the previous year. Milkfat content for February averaged 3.77 percent compared with 3.80 percent in February 1975.

Milk Prices 1/

Selected States	January 1976		February price per cwt.			March 1976 price per cwt. 2/
	Average test	Price per cwt.	1975	1976	76/75 change	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Milk for all uses						
Wisconsin	3.80	9.60	7.50	9.10	+ 21	9.45
Minnesota	3.68	9.19	7.14	8.63	+ 21	8.75
Iowa	3.81	9.50	7.38	9.10	+ 23	8.95
New York	3.67	10.30	8.20	10.00	+ 22	9.70
California	3.85	9.90	8.90	9.50	+ 7	8.90
United States	3.80	10.20	8.28	9.79	+ 18	9.71
Wisconsin utilization						
Market milk	3.81	9.80	7.77	9.40	+ 21	xxx
Manufacturing milk	3.79	9.29	7.11	8.64	+ 22	xxx
Creameries	3.77	9.15	7.04	8.60	+ 22	xxx
Cheese factories . .	3.79	9.31	7.12	8.65	+ 21	xxx
Varied prod. plants	3.78	9.20	7.06	8.56	+ 21	xxx

1/Preliminary average buying prices received for milk of average test. They differ from basic buying prices which are for 3.5% milk. 2/Based on preliminary information for milk of average test.

Wisconsin 3.5 Test Milk Prices 1/

Utilization	February 1975	January 1976	February 1976 2/	Change from last year
	Dollars per cwt.			Percent
Milk for all uses	6.91	8.84	8.45	+ 22
Market milk	7.13	9.00	8.68	+ 22
Manufacturing milk	6.50	8.58	8.06	+ 24
Creameries	6.66	8.49	8.09	+ 21
American cheese plants	6.59	8.60	8.06	+ 22
Varied products plants	6.59	8.52	8.01	+ 22
Federal Order Markets				
Chicago Regional Base Zone . .	7.44	9.46	9.06	+ 22

1/Computed equivalents. 2/Preliminary.

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WISCONSIN STATISTICAL REPORTING SERVICE

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Market grade milk averaged \$9.40 a hundredweight during February, down 40 cents from a month earlier but \$1.63 above last year. Milk of manufacturing grade averaged \$8.64 in February, a decline of 65 cents from January but \$1.53 higher than a year ago. The difference between market and manufacturing grade milk was 76 cents for February, 10 cents more than in February 1975.

MILK PRODUCTION UP IN STATE AND NATION

Milk production in Wisconsin and the Nation during March was higher than a year ago. Dairy herds in Wisconsin produced 1,747 million pounds of milk during March, up 4 percent from last year. Production per cow averaged 965 pounds for March, an increase of 35 pounds from March 1975. Daily feeding of grain and other concentrates to Wisconsin milk cows averaged 13.3 pounds per cow on April 1, nearly 1 pound more than on that date last year. For the first quarter of 1976, Wisconsin's milk production was 6 percent above that period in 1975.

The Nation's milk production in March was up 2 percent from a year ago and for the first quarter of this year showed an increase of 3 percent. Production per cow averaged 926 pounds, 30 pounds more than the previous year. Feeding of grain and other concentrates averaged 13.8 pounds per milk cow as of April 1 compared with 13.2 pounds a year earlier. The March milk-feed price ratio was 19 percent above March 1975 due to higher milk prices.

Milk Production

Selected States	March 1975	March 1976	Jan.-March 1976	Change from last year	
				March	Jan.-March
	Million pounds			Percent	
Wisconsin	1,684	1,747	4,916	+ 4	+ 6
Minnesota . . .	893	895	2,470	n. c.	- 1
Iowa	339	342	974	+ 1	+ 2
New York . . .	874	901	2,544	+ 3	+ 4
Pennsylvania . .	613	613	1,770	n. c.	+ 3
California . . .	890	934	2,676	+ 5	+ 6
Other states . .	4,728	4,818	13,693	+ 2	+ 2
United States .	10,021	10,250	29,043	+ 2	+ 3

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FEBRUARY CHEESE PRODUCTION 18 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR

Cheese production in the Nation during February was 18 percent higher than a year ago. The Nation's output of American cheese for February showed an increase of 23 percent from the previous year. Increases for other varieties of cheese were Swiss 26 percent, Brick and Muenster 14 percent, and Italian 12 percent.

Wisconsin's production of American cheese in February was up 18 percent from a year earlier. Minnesota made 38 percent more American cheese in February than a year ago, while Iowa had a gain of 32 percent and all other states increased 20 percent.

The Nation's butter production during February was down 5 percent from the previous year but Wisconsin had an increase of 6 percent. California churned 23 percent more butter in February than a year earlier but Minnesota was down 19 percent and all other states declined 12 percent.

Cottage cheese curd production in the Nation during February was 1 percent under last year while creamed cottage cheese was up 1 percent.

Current Dairy Products Estimates

Item and area	February 1975	February 1976	Jan.- Feb. 1976	Change from last year	
				February	Jan.-Feb.
	1,000 pounds			Percent	
BUTTER					
Wisconsin	18,800	20,000	41,300	+ 6	+ 8
Minnesota	19,800	16,050	32,850	- 19	- 21
California	10,400	12,800	26,500	+ 23	+ 24
Other states	41,371	36,585	79,070	- 12	- 9
United States	90,371	85,435	179,720	- 5	- 4
CHEESE, AMERICAN					
Wisconsin	53,500	62,900	129,900	+ 18	+ 18
Minnesota	19,700	27,280	53,925	+ 38	+ 30
Iowa	6,000	7,910	16,910	+ 32	+ 34
Other states	42,918	51,562	98,209	+ 20	+ 11
United States	122,118	149,652	298,944	+ 23	+ 18
CHEESE, MISCELLANEOUS					
United States					
Swiss	11,457	14,394	29,302	+ 26	+ 20
Brick and Muenster	5,752	6,554	13,755	+ 14	+ 22
Italian	48,124	54,134	113,140	+ 12	+ 14
All other	16,416	16,463	35,089	n. c.	+ 8
Total	81,749	91,545	191,286	+ 12	+ 14
ALL CHEESE					
United States	203,867	241,197	490,230	+ 18	+ 17
OTHER PRODUCTS					
Cottage Cheese					
United States					
Curd 1/	55,611	55,289	111,510	- 1	n. c.
Creamed 2/	68,945	69,572	140,064	+ 1	n. c.
	1,000 gallons			Percent	
Ice Cream					
Wisconsin	1,200	1,200	2,400	n. c.	- 6
Illinois	2,950	2,830	5,830	- 4	+ 1
Iowa	720	845	1,585	+ 17	+ 13
Michigan	3,155	2,675	5,335	- 15	- 9
Minnesota	2,050	1,885	3,540	- 8	- 16
Other states	49,797	47,588	94,114	- 4	- 5
United States	59,872	57,023	112,804	- 5	- 5

1/Includes cottage, pot, and bakers' cheese with a milkfat content of less than 4 percent. 2/Includes cheese with a milkfat content of 4 to 19 percent.

WHOLESALE PRICES UP FOR BUTTER AND CHEDDAR CHEESE

Wholesale prices of butter and cheddar cheese increased from February to March but Swiss cheese prices declined. The 92-score butter price at New York averaged about 88 cents a pound in March, up more than 5½ cents from the

previous month and nearly 19 cents above a year ago.

Cheddar cheese in 40 pound blocks averaged almost 94½ cents a pound at Wisconsin assembly points during March, a gain of over 4 cents from February and 17 cents higher than last year.

Swiss cheese in Grade A blocks averaged more than \$1.20 a pound for March. This was 1 cent under a month earlier but 18½ cents above March 1975.

Wholesale Dairy Prices

Commodity	March 1975	February 1976	March 1976 1/
Butter, 92-score, New York, pound . .	69.25¢	82.40¢	88.06¢
Cheese, Cheddars, Wisconsin primary markets, 40 lb. blocks, pound 2/ . .	77.38¢	90.03¢	94.42¢
Cheese, Swiss, Wisconsin State Brand, block pound 2/	101.75¢	121.25¢	120.30¢
Evaporated milk, North Central States, case, 48-14½ oz. cans, range	\$11.90-12.52	\$13.20-14.14	\$ — — —
Nonfat dry milk solids, spray, Chicago area, pound	60.58¢	64.25¢	63.37¢

1/Preliminary estimates. 2/Selling prices, f.o.b. at Wisconsin assembly points.

AMERICAN CHEESE PRODUCTION CONTINUES WELL ABOVE YEAR AGO

Weekly estimates for March indicated that production of American cheese in Wisconsin and the Nation was well above a year ago. The Nation's output of American cheese in March was about 16 percent higher than a year earlier, nearly comparable to the 18 percent increase shown for January and February. Wisconsin's production of American cheese during March was about 14 percent more than the previous year compared with an 18 percent gain for January and February.

According to weekly estimates, the Nation's butter production in March was 6 percent under last year. The National butter output for January and February showed a decline of 4 percent from those months in 1975. Wisconsin's butter production during March was up from a year earlier but not nearly as much as the 8 percent increase in January and February.

Recent Changes in Butter and Cheese Output

Periods	Butter			American Cheese		
	United States		Wisconsin	United States		Wisconsin
	Production 1976	Change from last year	Change from last year	Production 1976	Change from last year	Change from last year
	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent	1,000 lbs.	Percent	Percent
February . .	85,435	- 5	+ 6	149,652	+ 23	+ 18
Jan.-Feb. . .	179,720	- 4	- 8	298,944	+ 18	+ 18
Weeks ending:						
March 4 . .	20,460	- 3	+ 3	36,600	+ 16	+ 17
March 11 . .	20,500	- 6	- 6	37,100	+ 18	+ 12
March 18 . .	20,500	- 7	- 1	37,280	+ 15	+ 10
March 25 . .	20,700	- 5	+ 6	38,580	+ 15	+ 15
April 1 . .	20,600	- 10	+ 7	39,700	+ 14	+ 18
Total	102,760	- 6	xxx	189,260	+ 16	xxx

CHEESE AND BUTTER STOCKS REMAIN BELOW LAST YEAR

Cold storage stocks of butter and cheese in the Nation at the end of March remained below a year ago as they have since March 1975. There were only 29.5 million pounds of

butter in cold storage on March 31, less than half of the amount on that date last year. Government stocks of butter totaled just 3.6 million pounds compared with 28.2 million pounds in cold storage on March 31, 1975.

The 370.6 million pounds of cheese in cold storage at the end of March were 17 percent less than a year earlier. Stocks of American cheese were 19 percent below March 31, 1975, while stocks of Swiss cheese were down 34 percent.

Cold Storage Stocks of Butter and Cheese

Commodity	March 31, 1974	March 31, 1975	March 31, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
	UNITED STATES			
Butter	58,126	60,546	29,529	- 51
Cheese, American	363,792	386,175	312,652	- 19
Cheese, Swiss	15,891	11,433	7,554	- 34
Cheese, all other	59,172	50,521	50,387	n. c.
Cheese, total	438,855	448,129	370,593	- 17
	WISCONSIN			
Butter	2,397	5,991	4,079	- 32
Cheese, American	201,889	202,239	161,791	- 20
	GOVERNMENT STOCKS*			
Butter	7,877	28,199	3,553	- 87
Cheese, American	544	3,262	734	- 77

*Include in above totals.

Manufacturers' Stocks of Other Dairy Products United States

Commodity	Feb. 28, 1974	Feb. 28, 1975	Feb. 29, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds			Percent
Dried whole milk	7,768	7,512	11,047	+ 47
Dried skim milk	53,202	116,391	51,475	- 56
Dried buttermilk	6,160	6,005	7,200	+ 20
Condensed milk and evaporated milk (case goods) 1/ . .	57,502	61,768	49,577	- 20

1/Combined to avoid disclosing individual plant operations.

PRICES RECEIVED INDEX HIGHER AT MID-MARCH

The index of prices received by Wisconsin farmers for all farm products sold during the month ending at mid-March was up 13 points (2 percent) from February. Higher milk prices were the primary contributor to the increase in the prices received index. At 594 percent of the 1910-14 base, the prices received index was 115 points (24 percent) above mid-March 1975.

Milk cows for herd replacements averaged \$525.00 each in March, up \$10.00 from February and the sixth consecutive monthly increase. A year ago milk cows averaged only \$435.00 in March.

Slaughter cows averaged \$27.90 a hundredweight as of March 15, up \$1.80 from the previous month and \$9.00 above last year. Prices for steers and heifers continued lower in March. At \$32.80 a hundredweight in mid-March, steers and heifers were \$1.50 under February but \$2.30 more than a year earlier.

Hogs declined \$1.10 from February to March but at \$45.70 a hundredweight were \$7.50 above March 15, 1975.

Calves averaged \$37.00 a hundredweight for March, up \$1.50 from a month earlier and \$7.70 higher than the pre-

vious year.

Sheep increased \$1.50 from February to March and at \$11.20 a hundredweight were \$4.90 above mid-March last year. Lambs averaged \$44.50 a hundredweight in March, a gain of \$1.50 from February and \$9.00 greater than a year ago.

Poultry prices declined from February to March except for farm chickens. Turkeys averaged 32 cents a pound live-weight for March, down 1 cent from the previous month and 4 cents under last year. Eggs at 49 cents a dozen in mid-March, were 1½ cents below February but 2 cents more than March 1975.

Corn averaged \$2.52 a bushel on March 15, up 3 cents from a month earlier but 16 cents below a year ago. Wheat, at \$3.25 a bushel in March, was down 10 cents from February and was 17 cents under last year.

Soybeans averaged \$4.34 a bushel at mid-March, a decline of 6 cents from a month earlier and 79 cents below March 1975. Oats averaged \$1.40 a bushel in March, 1 cent less than February but 2 cents above a year ago.

Baled alfalfa hay averaged \$52.50 a ton as of mid-March, unchanged from February but \$12.00 higher than last year.

Prices Received by Wisconsin Farmers

Commodity	Unit	March 15, 1974	March 15, 1975	Feb. 15, 1976	March 15, 1976
Dollars					
Milk cows	Head	650.00	435.00	515.00	525.00
Steers and heifers	Cwt.	38.40	30.50	34.30	32.80
Cows	Cwt.	32.00	18.90	26.10	27.90
Calves	Cwt.	53.30	29.30	35.50	37.00
Hogs	Cwt.	34.20	38.20	46.80	45.70
Sheep	Cwt.	11.00	6.30	9.70	11.20
Lambs	Cwt.	34.50	35.50	43.00	44.50
Chickens 1/	Lb.	.145	.110	.105	.105
Turkeys	Lb.	.350	.360	.330	.320
Eggs	Doz.	.572	.469	.505	.490
Corn	Bu.	2.75	2.68	2.49	2.52
Wheat	Bu.	4.89	3.42	3.35	3.25
Oats	Bu.	1.45	1.38	1.41	1.40
Soybeans	Bu.	5.74	5.13	4.40	4.34
Alfalfa hay, baled	Ton	35.00	40.50	52.50	52.50

1/Excludes broilers.

CATTLE ON FEED NUMBERS HIGHER

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 23 major feeding states totaled 10,872,000 head on April 1, up 28 percent from the low level of a year ago but 12 percent under April 1, 1974. Cattle feeders in Wisconsin had 2 percent fewer cattle and calves on feed April 1 than a year earlier.

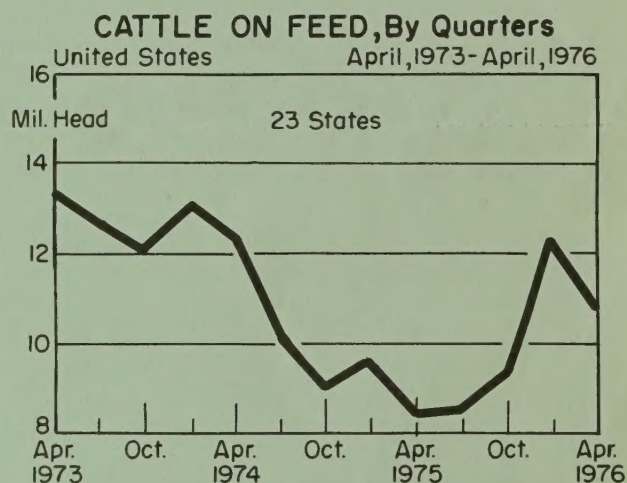
Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 23 states during the first quarter of 1976 were 14 percent more than in that quarter last year. Marketings of fed cattle during the past quarter were up 15 percent from January-March marketings in 1975. Expected marketings for April through June show an increase of 18 percent from second quarter marketings a year ago.

Texas continued as the largest cattle feeding state with 1,675,000 cattle and calves on feed April 1, up 49 percent from the previous year. Kansas had an increase of 40 percent in the number on feed April 1 while Nebraska was up 26 percent and Iowa had a gain of 22 percent.

Cattle and Calves on Feed by Quarters April 1, 1975, January 1, and April 1, 1976 1/

State	April 1, 1975	January 1, 1976	April 1, 1976	Change from last year
1,000 head				Percent
Arizona	329	510	422	+ 28
California	479	956	753	+ 57
Colorado	688	925	845	+ 23
Idaho	158	203	150	- 5
Illinois	500	630	590	+ 18
Indiana	230	285	245	+ 7
Iowa	1,160	1,530	1,420	+ 22
Kansas	860	1,340	1,200	+ 40
Michigan	180	210	205	+ 14
Minnesota	325	430	390	+ 20
Missouri	175	260	210	+ 20
Montana	62	80	63	+ 2
Nebraska	960	1,390	1,210	+ 26
New Mexico	125	185	163	+ 30
North Dakota	31	36	29	- 6
Ohio	240	320	270	+ 13
Oklahoma	207	286	284	+ 37
Oregon	55	79	67	+ 22
Pennsylvania	74	90	80	+ 8
South Dakota	270	365	320	+ 19
Texas	1,122	1,882	1,675	+ 49
Washington	118	168	159	+ 35
Wisconsin	125	136	122	- 2
23 States	8,473	12,296	10,872	+ 28

1/Cattle and calves on feed are animals being fattened for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates which are expected to produce a carcass that will grade good or better.



LIVESTOCK CASH RECEIPTS HIGHER IN 1975

Cash receipts from the sale of Wisconsin livestock in 1975 increased about 13 percent from the previous year. Lower prices for cattle and calves were offset by larger marketings while a substantial gain in hog prices offset a decline in marketings. Total receipts from the sale of cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, and lambs in 1975 were \$477 million compared with \$424 million in 1974.

Cattle prices averaged \$24.90 a hundredweight for 1975, a decline of \$2.80 from a year earlier. Calves at \$31.80 a hundredweight in 1975 were \$6.70 under 1974 and the lowest since 1968. Hogs averaged \$46.00 a hundredweight during 1975, an increase of \$13.30 from the previous year and a record high. Sheep returned an average of \$7.40 a hundredweight for 1975, down 85 cents from 1974. Lambs averaged a record high of \$38.50 a hundredweight for 1975, a gain of \$3.70 from a year ago.

On the pound basis, marketings of cattle and calves during 1975 were 26 percent greater than in 1974 and the most since 1966. Cash receipts for cattle and calves amounted to \$268 million in 1975, up 11 percent from a year earlier. Total pounds of hogs marketed during 1975 were 19 percent

below 1974 but cash receipts from hogs increased 14 percent. Marketings of sheep and lambs in 1975 were down 10 percent from 1974 on the pound basis and cash receipts declined 4 percent.

CATTLE AND CALVES: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1966 - 75

Year	Production 1/ 1,000 pounds	Marketings 2/ 1,000 pounds	Price per 100 pounds		Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
			Cattle	Calves				
			Dollars				1,000 dollars	
1966	982,275	1,067,117	17.90	28.40	205,755	9,849	215,604	9,139
1967	998,005	1,017,580	17.90	29.00	197,730	10,849	208,579	8,593
1968	983,860	1,002,279	18.50	31.30	203,775	10,839	214,614	8,286
1969	974,775	971,847	21.10	34.50	224,109	14,231	238,340	11,638
1970	1,037,190	942,058	22.00	38.10	230,039	18,161	248,200	14,256
1971	1,016,690	906,412	22.50	39.80	229,887	19,594	249,481	3/
1972	1,004,450	961,994	26.70	47.30	287,765	21,500	309,265	3/
1973	936,170	905,644	34.30	58.90	343,707	19,612	363,319	3/
1974	1,024,040	821,048	27.70	38.50	240,571	34,682	275,253	3/
1975	1,032,050	1,033,770	24.90	31.80	268,030	28,760	296,790	3/

1/Adjustments made for numbers shipped in and changes in inventory. 2/Excludes inter-farm sales. 3/Discontinued.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1966 - 75

Year	Production 1/ 1,000 pounds	Marketings 2/ 1,000 pounds	Price per 100 pounds		Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
			Sheep	Lambs				
			Dollars				1,000 dollars	
1966	11,346	12,647	5.60	22.00	2,591	60	2,651	367
1967	11,857	12,804	5.30	20.90	2,471	51	2,522	181
1968	12,140	13,763	5.30	23.30	2,798	60	2,858	291
1969	10,257	13,272	6.70	26.50	2,994	37	3,031	287
1970	9,796	12,211	6.20	25.10	2,657	35	2,692	265
1971	8,577	10,067	5.60	24.80	2,231	35	2,266	3/
1972	8,312	10,799	6.10	27.40	2,591	38	2,629	3/
1973	7,656	9,556	10.00	31.40	2,607	44	2,651	3/
1974	6,935	8,112	8.25	34.80	2,487	49	2,536	3/
1975	5,914	7,334	7.40	38.50	2,394	62	2,456	3/

1/Adjustments made for numbers shipped in and changes in inventory. 2/Excludes inter-farm sales. 3/Discontinued.

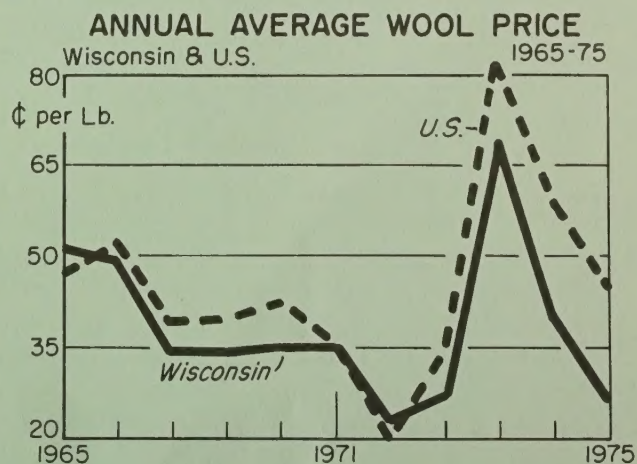
HOGS: Production and Income, Wisconsin, 1966 - 75

Year	Production 1/ 1,000 pounds	Marketings 2/ 1,000 pounds	Price per 100 pounds	Cash receipts	Value of home consumption	Gross income	Cost of inshipments
			Dollars			1,000 dollars	
1966	682,540	623,196	23.20	144,581	3,790	148,371	101
1967	678,734	661,846	18.80	124,427	2,978	127,405	97
1968	720,904	706,649	18.30	129,317	3,352	132,669	30
1969	657,487	656,894	21.90	143,860	3,548	147,408	84
1970	716,766	678,538	22.50	152,671	3,544	156,215	96
1971	726,983	732,262	17.80	130,343	2,703	133,046	3/
1972	614,036	631,887	24.90	157,340	4,202	161,542	3/
1973	558,813	529,527	37.50	198,573	7,518	206,091	3/
1974	552,655	553,270	32.70	180,919	8,829	189,748	3/
1975	436,139	448,785	46.00	206,441	10,184	216,625	3/

1/Adjustments made for numbers shipped in and changes in inventory. 2/Excludes inter-farm sales. 3/Discontinued.

WOOL PRODUCTION AND PRICES DOWN CONSIDERABLY AGAIN IN 1975

Wool production and prices in Wisconsin and the Nation again declined sharply during 1975. The 1975 wool crop of 680,000 pounds for Wisconsin was down 7 percent from 1974 and the smallest crop ever produced in the State. Fleece weight averaged 7.7 pounds in 1975, slightly under the previous year but there were 5,000 fewer sheep shorn in Wisconsin during 1975. Wool prices averaged only 26 cents a pound in Wisconsin for 1975, down 14 cents from a year earlier and well below the 1973 price of 69 cents a pound. With both production and prices lower, the value of the 1975 Wisconsin wool crop totaled \$177,000, down 40 percent from last year and the lowest value ever recorded.



Nationally, wool production in 1975 showed a 10 percent decline from the previous year. Although average fleece weights for 1975 were up from 1974, the number of sheep shorn declined as did pulled wool production. The average price received by producers for shorn wool was about 45 cents a pound in 1975, down 14 cents from a year earlier. Shorn wool production had a value of \$53.7 million for 1975 compared with \$78.6 million in 1974. Texas was the leading state in the production of shorn wool with 23.6 million pounds in 1975, nearly double that of the next ranking state.

Wool Production

Major states and United States	Number of sheep shorn		Weight per fleece		Wool production		
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	Change from last year
	1,000 head		Pounds		1,000 pounds		Percent
Arizona . . .	471	450	7.2	7.3	3,397	3,282	- 3
California . .	1,377	1,311	7.8	7.9	10,779	10,389	- 4
Colorado . . .	1,277	1,120	7.8	7.5	9,999	8,365	- 16
Idaho	631	564	10.6	10.6	6,713	5,955	- 11
Illinois	235	213	7.2	7.1	1,683	1,516	- 10
Indiana	190	182	7.7	7.7	1,466	1,396	- 5
Iowa	516	463	7.5	7.7	3,882	3,554	- 8
Kansas	268	195	7.9	8.1	2,116	1,573	- 26
Michigan	181	159	8.2	8.1	1,491	1,293	- 13
Minnesota . . .	367	342	7.4	7.1	2,734	2,417	- 12
Missouri	200	180	7.5	7.3	1,507	1,306	- 13
Montana	704	600	10.1	9.7	7,143	5,795	- 19
Nebraska	285	258	7.3	7.3	2,087	1,896	- 9
Nevada	143	126	10.3	10.0	1,473	1,260	- 14
New Mexico . . .	610	520	9.9	9.8	6,010	5,120	- 15
N. Dakota . . .	284	257	9.3	9.9	2,648	2,544	- 4
Ohio	523	505	8.1	7.9	4,212	3,978	- 6
Oregon	515	450	7.5	7.6	3,846	3,405	- 11
Pennsylvania . .	120	115	7.0	7.0	840	805	- 4
S. Dakota	917	767	9.2	9.2	8,448	7,073	- 16
Texas	3,390	3,090	7.1	7.6	23,900	23,600	- 1
Utah	728	591	10.0	10.4	7,255	6,140	- 15
Virginia	158	154	6.2	6.2	980	955	- 3
Washington . . .	115	87	9.1	9.4	1,048	817	- 22
West Virginia . .	125	123	5.8	5.7	725	701	- 3
Wisconsin	93	88	7.9	7.7	734	680	- 7
Wyoming	1,375	1,270	9.7	9.7	13,385	12,281	- 8
United States	16,142	14,472	8.2	8.3	132,963	120,197	- 10

BEEF PRODUCTION REMAINS UP WHILE PORK OUTPUT CONTINUES LOWER

Production of beef in Wisconsin during February was 13 percent above a year ago but output of pork was down 20 percent.

There were 119,000 cattle slaughtered in Wisconsin during February, an increase of 13,000 from the previous

Commercial Livestock Slaughter

Area	Number			Liveweight	
	February		Change from last year	February	
	1975	1976		1975	1976
	1,000 head		Percent	Million pounds	
Cattle					
Wisconsin	106.0	119.0	+ 12	118.2	133.3
United States 1/. .	3,082.3	3,336.4	+ 8	3,148.4	3,380.8
Calves					
Wisconsin	31.0	36.0	+ 16	4.1	4.9
United States 1/. .	329.6	407.7	+ 24	89.0	108.9
Hogs					
Wisconsin	246.0	190.0	- 23	58.1	46.4
United States 1/. .	5,891.7	5,122.0	- 13	1,389.1	1,208.5
Sheep and lambs					
Wisconsin2	.2	n. c.	.019	.020
United States 1/. .	586.5	528.4	- 10	62.6	58.3

1/Excludes Alaska.

year. Cattle averaged 1,120 liveweight for February, up 5 pounds from a year earlier.

The 190,000 hogs butchered in Wisconsin during February were 56,000 fewer than a year ago and the lowest for that month since 1949. Hog liveweight averaged 244 pounds in February, an increase of 8 pounds from February 1975.

Calf slaughter for February numbered 36,000, up 5,000 from last year. Average liveweight of calves was 136 pounds in February, 5 pounds heavier than a year earlier. The 200 sheep and lambs killed in February were equal to February 1975.

With beef and veal slaughter up in February, Wisconsin's total red meat production was 1 percent above a year ago.

MEAT STOCKS UNDER LAST YEAR

Cold storage stocks of meat in the Nation at the end of March were 7 percent below a year ago. Although beef stocks were up 4 percent from March 31, 1975, the supply of pork in cold storage was down 17 percent.

There were 398 million pounds of beef in cold storage at the end of March, an increase of 36 million pounds from the previous month and nearly 14 million pounds above last year.

Pork stocks in cold storage on March 31 totaled 248.6 million pounds up 26 million pounds from a month earlier but almost 51 million pounds under a year ago.

Cold Storage Stocks of Meat United States

Commodity	Mar. 31, 1974	Mar. 31, 1975	Feb. 29, 1976	Mar. 31, 1976	Change from last year
	1,000 pounds				Percent
Beef:					
Frozen	463,592	375,414	354,026	388,737	+ 4
In cure and cured	13,486	9,191	8,244	9,485	+ 3
Total	477,078	384,605	362,270	398,222	+ 4
Pork:					
Frozen	327,526	284,894	206,132	229,900	- 19
In cooler	19,100	14,445	16,125	18,737	+ 30
Total	346,626	299,339	222,527	248,637	- 17
Other meats and meat products:					
Veal, frozen	14,100	12,648	10,004	8,436	- 33
Lamb and mutton, frozen	13,749	9,254	11,123	9,162	- 1
Canned meats in cooler:					
Hams	77,460	67,859	57,823	54,021	- 20
Other meats	17,342	13,726	13,134	11,783	- 14
Total, all meats	946,355	787,431	676,611	730,261	- 7

CORN ACREAGE EXPECTED TO BE HIGHER IN 1976

The April 1 survey of planting intentions for the 1976 season indicated that farmers in Wisconsin and the Nation plan to increase corn acreage. Wisconsin farmers expect to plant a record high 3,680,000 acres of corn in 1976, up 5 percent from 1975. Nationally, corn acreage for this year could total 82,727,000 acres or 6 percent more than last year.

Based on the April 1 survey, Wisconsin farmers intend to reduce soybean acreage to 180,000 acres for 1976. This

Planted Acreage, Selected Crops, 1976 Intentions
Compared with 1974 and 1975 Planted Acreage, Wisconsin and United States

Crop	Wisconsin				United States			
	1974	1975	1976	Change from last year	1974	1975	1976	Change from last year
	1,000 acres			Percent	1,000 acres			Percent
Corn, all	3,490	3,500	3,680	+ 5	77,787	77,902	82,727	+ 6
Spring wheat	22	22	24	+ 9	14,826	14,112	16,442	+ 17
Oats 1/	1,470	1,470	1,450	- 1	17,967	17,386	16,757	- 4
Barley 1/	20	37	39	+ 5	8,994	9,526	9,201	- 3
Potatoes, fall	53.0	52.0	53.0	+ 2	1,166.5	1,076.5	1,117.2	+ 4
Tobacco, type 54 2/	4.7	5.6	5.6	n. c.	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, type 55 2/	4.7	5.4	5.4	n. c.	—	—	—	—
Tobacco, all 2/	9.4	11.0	11.0	n. c.	962.6	1,083.5	1,009.3	- 7
Soybeans 3/	230	200	180	- 10	53,507	54,577	49,330	- 10
Hay, all 2/	3,950	3,970	3,970	n. c.	60,571	61,863	62,623	+ 1

1/U. S. Total includes acreage planted preceding fall. 2/Acres harvested or intended for harvest. 3/Grown for all purposes.

would be 10 percent less than in 1975 and 22 percent below 1974. Soybean growers in the Nation also plan to lower their acreage 10 percent in 1976 to 49,330,000 acres.

Oat acreage in Wisconsin during 1976 may total 1,450,000 acres, down 1 percent from the previous year. Seeding of oats in the Nation is expected to total 16,757,000 acres, a decline of 4 percent from 1975.

Spring wheat acreage may be up 17 percent Nationally in 1976 to 16,442,000 acres. Wisconsin farmers intend to plant 24,000 acres of spring wheat for 1976, up 9 percent or 2,000 acres more than last year.

Planting of barley may be higher in Wisconsin during 1976 but could be lower Nationally. The 39,000 acres of barley expected in Wisconsin for 1976 would be up 2,000 acres or 5 percent from 1975. Barley acreage in the Nation is intended at 9,201,000 acres for 1976, down 3 percent from a year earlier.

Wisconsin farmers plan to harvest hay from 3,970,000 acres in 1976, the same as in 1975. The Nation's hay acreage is indicated at 62,623,000, an increase of 1 percent from last year.

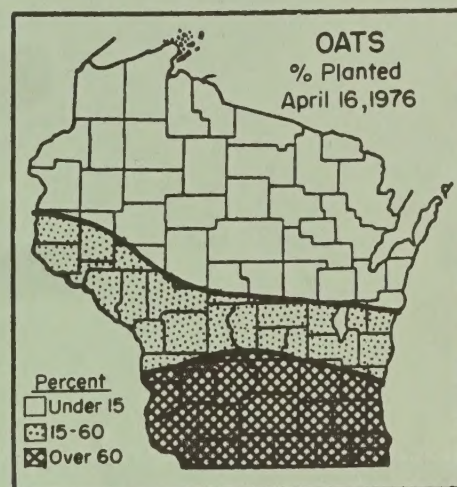
Tobacco growers in Wisconsin intend to keep tobacco acreage at 11,000 acres for 1976 but the National tobacco crop may be down 7 percent.

The fall potato acreage is expected to be up 2 percent in Wisconsin and up 4 percent in the Nation, according to the April 1 planting intentions survey.

1976 CROP SEASON HAS EARLY START

Above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation in the last half of March and the first half of April have contributed to an early crop season in Wisconsin for 1976. As of April 19th, seeding of oats in Wisconsin was 33 percent completed compared with none a year ago and 10 percent for the past ten years. Many farmers in the south were done seeding oats while some in the north and east had not started yet on heavy ground. This has been one of the earliest years that some farmers have finished seeding oats. Of the last ten seasons, only 1968 had more oats seeded by mid-April than this year.

Spring plowing was 25 percent done by April 19th compared with none in 1975 and 10 percent normally. The ground worked up nice this year in contrast to recent springs

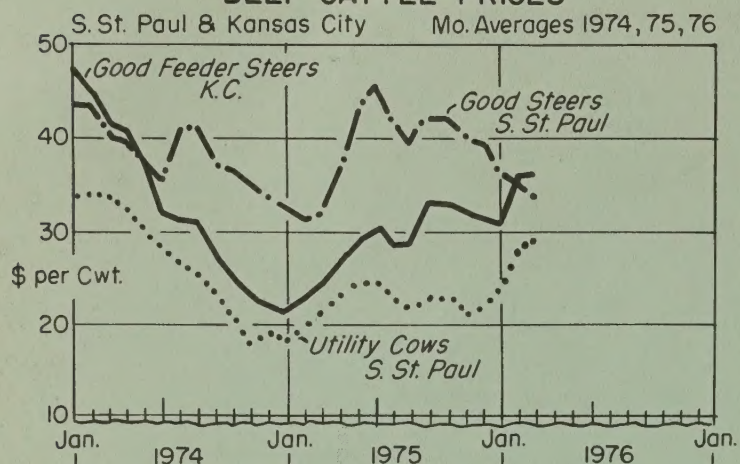


which have been wet. Much plowing was completed last fall and the early start this spring meant planting could proceed faster. Those farmers done with oats have been working the corn ground. A little corn has already been planted in the south. Planting of early potatoes and peas has a good start. Some early sweet corn has been planted as have home gardens.

The warm weather and some showers in April helped pastures and hay fields to green up and grow. Most farmers were pleased with the winter survival of hay seedings. A good hay season is needed in 1976 to replenish hay stocks. Tobacco beds have been steamed and seeded. Orchards have developed faster than usual due to the above normal temperatures. The maple sap run was better than in 1975, aided by warm days and cold nights in early April. As of mid-April, soil moisture supplies were reported as 10 percent short, 80 percent adequate, and 10 percent surplus.

FED STEER PRICES DOWN AGAIN

Prices of good grade fed steers at the St. Paul market declined from February to March. This was the sixth consecutive month that prices of fed steers were under a year earlier. Good grade steers weighing between 900-1100 pounds averaged \$33.90 a hundredweight at St. Paul during March, down \$1.79 from February but \$1.91 above last year. Fed steer prices showed strength at the end of March.

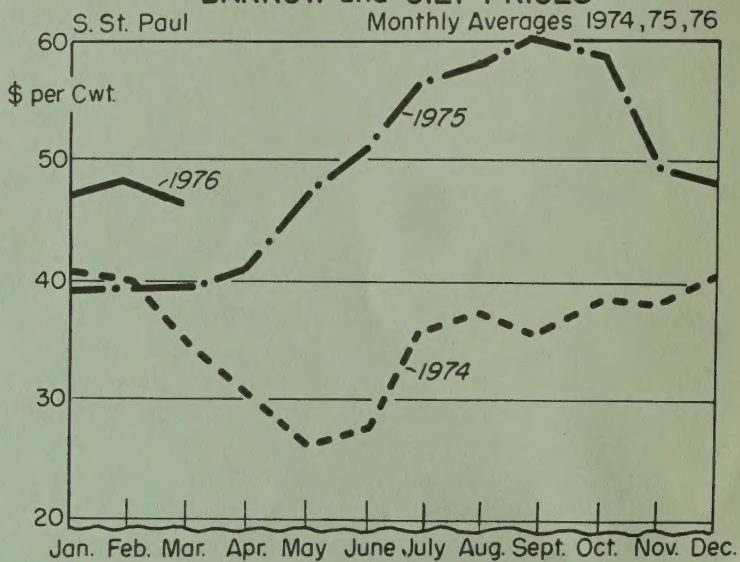
BEEF CATTLE PRICES

Good grade feeder steers weighing between 600-700 pounds averaged \$36.28 a hundredweight at the Kansas City market in March, up 35 cents from the previous month and well above the average of \$24.34 in March 1975.

Utility cows at St. Paul averaged \$29.37 a hundredweight for March, up \$1.16 from February and \$8.15 higher than a year ago.

HOG MARKET LOWER

Prices of barrows and gilts at the St. Paul market for March averaged about \$2.00 a hundredweight lower than in February. However, the March average of \$46.42 a hundredweight was \$7.18 above a year earlier.

BARROW and GILT PRICES

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